



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/897,119	07/03/2001	Ciaran Murphy	922-138	9241

7590 12/06/2004

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

8th Floor

1100 North Glebe Road

Arlington, VA 22201-4714

EXAMINER

LUU, LE HIEN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2141

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/897,119

Applicant(s)

MURPHY, CIARAN

Examiner

Le H Luu

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/03/01 - 01/03/02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/03/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

1. Claims 1-15 are presented for examination.
2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:  
  
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. As to claim 1, "the main network", "the protocol package", and "the protocol of the main network" lack positive antecedent basis. For purpose of examination, Examiner assume claim 1 as follows: "a storage area network comprising a plurality of storage servers, a first of which (5) is directly connected to a main network (2) and others of which (7, 8, and 9) are connected via the first storage server, the first storage server having an internal protocol server that inserts an identifier into a protocol package so that the protocol package differs from protocol of the main network and the first storage server supplies the protocol package to the other storage servers which recognize the identifiers."

Applicant is requested to review all claims for positive antecedent basis, and make appropriate correction.

Art Unit: 2141

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

or

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

6. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (Wang) patent no. 6,826,613.

Art Unit: 2141

7. As to claim 1, Wang teaches the invention as claimed, including a storage area network comprising a plurality of storage servers, a first of which is directly connected to a main network and others of which are connected via the first storage server, the first storage server having an internal protocol server that inserts an identifier into a protocol package so that the protocol package differs from protocol of the main network and the first storage server supplies the protocol package to the other storage servers which recognize the identifiers (Fig 10; col. 3 lines 33-65; col. 16 line 61 - col. 18 line 21).

8. As to claims 2-4, Wang further teaches server operates in a master mode which includes having its internal protocol server turned on and operating at file level, and said other storage servers operate in a slave mode which includes operating at block-level; and the rest of the storage servers also have an internal protocol server, and the slave mode further includes the internal protocol servers being inoperative; and the first storage server is configured to start up with its internal protocol server inoperative and upon receipt of a standard event from the main network, the internal protocol server commences operation (Fig 10; col. 4 lines 39-65; col. 17 line 32 - col. 18 line 21; col. 20 line 66 - col. 21 line 22).

9. As to claim 5, Wang further teaches the storage servers are similar and interconnected via Ethernet connection (col. 15 lines 19-33).

Art Unit: 2141

10. As to claims 6-8, Wang further teaches a cluster of storage servers are directly connected to the main network and to said other storage servers and only one of said cluster inserts the identifier into the protocol package; and the storage servers of the cluster all operate in file level mode; and the cluster of storage servers establish which one is to insert the identifier (col. 6 lines 39-56).

11. Claims 9-15 have similar limitations as claims 1-8; therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale.

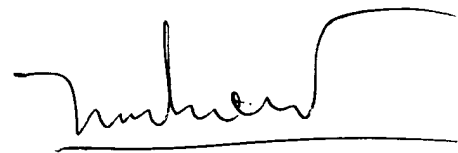
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Le H Luu whose telephone number is 571-272-3884. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/897,119  
Art Unit: 2141

Page 6

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Le Hien Luu', is written above a horizontal line.

LE HIEN LUU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

December 01, 2004